

Jasper County
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Silver Haired Legislature working for change

Dear Editor,

In 1999 Gov. Hodges signed into law the South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature. This is a group of volunteers who advocate for the needs and services of seniors in South Carolina. There are about 700,000 of us now.

I have served with this group since 2000. I am the chairman of the Lowcountry Caucus which includes Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties. We have representatives from each of these counties.

We meet several times a year and discuss the needs of seniors all over the state. We then, in September, go to Columbia for three days to prioritize the resolutions that we have developed. Then at the first meeting of the General Assembly in January we present the top five that we have decided are the most critical to the state legislature for their consideration to put into law.

All of us are volunteers, so we have been paying our own expenses.

Two or three years ago Gov. Sanford did something very

good for us by putting all senior services under the lieutenant governor's office for administration, and Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer has given us \$5,000 from his budget for the last two years to help with operating our state office. This year he asked for a line item of \$15,000 to be added to the state budget that would be for operating expenses and helping us with some of our expenses.

The governor vetoed this line. Bauer went to all of the legislators to get their support to override his veto.

I would like to thank him and the legislature, on behalf of the Lowcountry caucus, for their support of the SCSHL by his work and their vote to override his veto. Thank you so much.

We will be going to Columbia this month to start this process again.

Gladys Jones
SCSHL Lowcountry
Caucus Chairman
Jasper County Council